



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for November 10, 2008

For More Information:

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PROTECTING CHILDREN: Recognizing the fact that a properly fitted and installed child safety seat can save a young life, Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring legislation that will provide child safety seats to low-income families. *Ordinance 1686-2008* will accept and appropriate \$68,667 to fund the Occupant Protection grant program through September 2009. In tandem with this legislation, Columbus Public Health holds child safety seat inspections at the Health Department (240 Parsons Avenue) and at Columbus Fire Station 19 (3601 North High Street) once a month. For more information on dates and times, call (614) 645-7748.

DEFENDING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Judiciary and Court Administration Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is sponsoring two pieces of legislation to accept grants from the State to assist victims of domestic violence. *Ordinance 1746-2008* authorizes the City Attorney to accept a \$129,895 grant from the Ohio Attorney General to fund the Victims of Crime Act Domestic Violence Advocates program. *Ordinance 1747-2008* authorizes the City Attorney to accept a grant from the Ohio Attorney General's office in the amount of \$9,743 for the State Victims Assistance Act Domestic Violence Advocates program. The Domestic Violence unit of the City Attorney's Office assists witnesses and victims of domestic violence through the legal process and provides counseling, referrals and linkage with agencies and community resources.

PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT WITH GREEN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: Looking to minimize the environmental impact of numerous infrastructure improvement projects around Columbus, the Department of Public Utilities is partnering with GSP/OH, Inc. to enhance the City's green management practices. *Ordinance 1719-2008*, sponsored by Public Utilities Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#), will authorize a contract to develop and implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) plan. The EMS agreement will establish an environmental program structure to achieve long-term environmental regulatory compliance.

GRASS & LITTER CONTROL SERVICES: The foreclosure crisis that has impacted thousands of Columbus families is posing health and safety concerns for Columbus neighborhoods. *Ordinance 1743-2008*, sponsored by Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#), authorizes additional funding to augment agreements with various contractors for grass mowing and litter control services during the 2008-2009 season. These abatement services are needed to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Columbus. Due to the increase of foreclosures in Columbus, and the increase of recalcitrant property owners, more properties are being abated and the additional funding will allow the program to continue. City Council had budgeted slightly more than \$277,000 for the program. The cost of the service is assessed to the property owner.

CELEBRATING CONSERVATION EFFORTS: When it comes to protecting the environment, the Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT) has been on the forefront of conservation efforts. *Resolution 0199X-2008*, sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), recognizes the countless hours FACT members have volunteered to preserve Columbus' waterways. One of the group's most significant accomplishments was securing \$250,000 in grant funding for the lowhead dam removal/waterway corridor restoration project from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which allowed the project to move forward without any cost to Columbus taxpayers.

CONTINUING SERVICES: Council President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) is sponsoring legislation that will keep the Jerry Hammond Center running at full capacity. *Ordinance 1658-2008* will authorize the expenditure of \$295,000 for building maintenance services for the center on 1111 East Broad Street. This contract will allow for payment of building management expenses through April 30, 2009.

MENTEL HELPING WITH EDUCATING PUBLIC ON DIGITAL TRANSITION: By law, full-power television stations nationwide must begin broadcasting exclusively in digital format on February 17, 2009. To help educate the public about this transition, Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) has invited Christine Merritt, executive vice president of the Ohio Association of Broadcasters, to provide Council with a summary of the upgrade as well as information on how Columbus residents using analog sets can continue receiving television reception.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF NOTE:

- Public Utilities Committee Chair Andrew J. Ginther will conduct a public meeting to discuss proposed 2009 water and sewer rates, the Wet Weather Management Plan, the Low Income Discount Program, the Senior Citizen Discount and other related issues on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 6:30 pm. Director Tatyana Arsh of the Columbus Department of Public Utilities and staff will present recommendations to the committee.
- Minority and Small Business Development Committee Chair Hearcel F. Craig will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 5:30 pm to discuss Council's role in accelerating business growth and opportunities for small business owners. The third in a series of meetings, this briefing will take place at the historic North Market (59 Spruce Street Dispatch Kitchen, 2nd Floor) featuring North Market leaders and business owners.
- Since 1907, Charity Newsies volunteers have sold newspapers to raise money and buy clothing for needy Franklin County children. The 2008 paper drive is Saturday, December 13 at various locations around Columbus. To help increase awareness of this year's paper drive, Council President Michael C. Mentel will join the group on Friday, November 14 at noon to raise a banner near the southwest corner of Broad and High streets to promote awareness of this year's event.